



SFHSA
Department of Disability
and Aging Services

COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

December 2023

BENEFITS AWARDED

\$316,482.56

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

177

WALK-IN CLIENTS

517

CLAIMS FILED

133 Auditable

357 Total

MEDI-CAL VERIFICATIONS

8

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The SF CVSO, in coordination with Swords' To Plowshares, applied for Prop. 63 Mental Health Services Act Grant funding for the 2023, 2024, 2025 funding cycle to provide outreach and complex legal benefits review and assistance primarily focused on students, women, LGBTQ, unhoused and justice-involved veterans. The services are carried out by Swords' and alleviate the strain that complex claims can have on CVSO resources.

The SFCVSO accepts VA Work Study Program applicants on a rolling basis. To apply:

- ✓ Email your resume to sfcvso@sfgov.org
- ✓ Type **"VA Work Study Applicant"** in the email subject line.
- ✓ If you need help with your resume, let us know.



[SFHSA.org](https://www.sfhsa.org)



2 Gough Street, San Francisco, CA



SUCCESS STORIES

Assisting Veterans Who Have Pursued Claims for a Long Time:

Many veterans have pursued disability claims for years without success. In this case, we were able to assist a Veteran who has been seeking service connection since 2016 for injuries incurred in the Marine Corps in the late 1970s as a result of a motor vehicle accident in the 2-ton truck he was operating. He has had a variety of issues from that accident including a TBI, back, and knee conditions, which were identified in his service treatment records. Despite this, the Veteran had pursued disability claims unsuccessfully through this CVSO since 2016 after attempting to file on his own. In 2022, he returned to the SF CVSO to again pursue his claim. After reviewing his previous denials, the claims rep. assisted the veteran with identifying any evidence that could support his claim, including reviewing Service Treatment Records to see if the VA missed something, encouraging the veteran to reach out to anyone he served with who could provide a statement about the veteran's conditions in the service, and obtaining current medical treatment for each condition. The Veteran was eventually able to gather current treatment records and letters from his providers, as well as a buddy statement from someone he served with, to support that his current condition was related to his in-service injuries. The VA granted his claims for his back condition and TBI, and even connected him for left and right lower extremity radiculopathy associated with the back condition. In addition to receiving retroactive compensation back to Dec. 2022, and ongoing monthly compensation for a 60% combined rating, we will continue to assist the veteran in pursuing claims for mental health secondary to the discomfort and limited mobility caused by his back condition.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 9 The CVSO will attend the City College of San Francisco Spring 2024 Veteran Welcome Day and Open House to provide new and continuing student Veterans with information about this office and the disability claims process. CVSO staff will also offer one-on-one assistance with filing or reviewing claims for service-connected disabilities or other benefits and services.

